

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

March 6, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES v. NOEL HEATH**

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehltrittter announced today that Noel Heath was extradited from the country of St. Kitts to face federal drug charges in Rochester, New York. The lengthy extradition proceedings, which were processed through the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, relate to a five count federal indictment handed down in 1995, which principally charges Heath with conspiring to import more than five (5) kilograms of cocaine into the United States, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 952, and conspiracy to possess more than five (5) kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and 846. Each of these charges carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of \$4,000,000, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley Tyler stated that the Indictment charges that in the months of June and July, 1992, the defendant conspired and agreed with others to import

and distribute cocaine in the Western District of New York. It is alleged that Heath, a native of St. Kitts, supplied accomplices residing in Rochester, New York with cocaine that was intended to be distributed here. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement officials stopped a tractor trailer being operated by two accomplices on the New York State Thruway. Pursuant to a search of that truck, officials seized approximately 13 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the tractor trailer. Additionally, a telephone wire tap being utilized at the time recorded several phone calls between a co-conspirator here in Rochester and Noel Heath, who was then living in St. Kitts.

The 1995 Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of David Zon, Resident Agent in Charge - Rochester, and the Rochester Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Timothy Hickey.

The evidence was presented to the Grand Jury by Brad Tyler, Assistant United States Attorney, who will handle the trial of the case.